

A1
revised

10. (Newly Added) The timepiece of claim 9, wherein the words are from a selected language.

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending. By this amendment, claims 1 and 2 are amended and claims 5-10 are added. The claims have been amended to clarify the subject matter of the invention. Claims 5-10 have been added to further vary the scope of the claimed subject matter. No new matter is added.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,307,813 to Leggio. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite “[a] digital timepiece comprising: a face including a display for displaying a digital hour and a message, the digital hour and the message indicative of approximate time; a digital timekeeping circuit for generating a signal indicative of precise time; and a conversion unit responsive to the digital timekeeping signal for generating on the display the digital hour and the message, indicative of the approximate time.”

Leggio discloses a timepiece for indicating an approximate time. However, Leggio does not teach or suggest a timepiece comprising a face including a display for displaying a digital hour and a message, the digital hour and the message indicative of approximate time. The Examiner refers to reference numeral **12** for the timepiece’s face and **14** for displaying a message indicative of approximate time. However, it is clear that Leggio merely provides a text message regarding the approximate time. Leggio does not

teach or suggest displaying a digital hour along with a message to indicate the approximate time.

Advantageously, Applicant's invention provides a simple and easy way to read and understand approximate time. The user always expects the hour to be displayed. The hour is approximate, in that it will change, for example, from "2" to "3" around "2:45". Thus the prominent digital hour really is an "approximate" time keeper as well, even without the accompanying message. This is the first level of approximation, which can be viewed at a glance with little effort. If the user desires the time with more precision, he or she may then read the message. In contrast, Leggio requires that the user must read an entire text message, which makes it more difficult to use.

Claim 2 recites that the timepiece of claim 1 further comprises "a mode switch for switching modes between the display of the digital hour and the message that together indicate approximate time and the display of precise time." It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has apparently overlooked this feature.

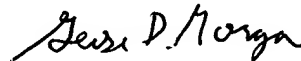
Although Leggio, at col. 2, lines 55-62, does refer to an "actuating means 16" (shown in Figs. 1 and 2), it is evident that this is not the same as the claimed mode switch of Applicant's invention. While the actuating means described in Leggio apparently allows the timepiece to alternatively provide continuous time or the time at some point, it is clear that the time provided to the user, in either case, is the approximate time. Leggio at col. 6, lines 6-9, notes that his "timepiece never indicates the exact numeric time...." Thus, there is no disclosure in Leggio for the feature of a "mode switch" for switching modes between the display of the digital hour/ message and the display of precise time.

Because Leggio fails to disclose one or more feature recited in claims 1 and 2, this reference would not have rendered obvious the subject matter of claims 1 and 2. Claims 3 and 4, which depend from independent claim 1, are likewise patentable over the cited reference for at least the reason discussed as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that newly added claims 5-10 are also patentable over the cited reference.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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